

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0275/164216.01  
Application No.: 09/892,318  
Office Action Dated: May 6, 2005

PATENT  
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PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO  
37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling the use of a digital license on a plurality of devices, said digital license permitting the use of a content item and being bound to a first of said plurality of devices by a first key pair associated with said first device, said method comprising:

receiving a first digital license from said first device, said first digital license associated with a first expiration date;

generating a modified first digital license for said first device, said modified first digital license based on said first digital license, wherein said modified first digital license is set to expire prior to said first digital license, and wherein said modified first digital license is extendable by connecting to a license synchronization server;

receiving a second key pair associated with a second of said plurality of devices, said second key pair being different from said first key pair;

creating a second digital license bound to said second device using said second key pair, said second digital license being based on said first digital license, wherein said second digital license is set to expire prior to said first expiration date on a second expiration date and wherein failure of said second device to contact a license synchronization server prior to said second expiration date results in removal of said second device from a registration store on said license synchronization server; and

transmitting said second digital license to said second device.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said act of creating at the second digital license includes adding at the second expiration date to said second digital license, said second expiration date occurring earlier in time than said first expiration date.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said second expiration date comprises a specified offset from a date on which said act of transmitting said second digital license

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occurs.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
creating a third digital license bound to said first device; and  
transmitting said third license to said first device.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said third digital license includes a firstthird expiration date.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said firstthird expiration date comprises a specified offset from a date on which said act of transmitting said third license occurs.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of limiting the number of said plurality of devices.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said second digital license ~~includes a first expiration date, and~~ wherein said method further comprises the act of periodically refreshing said second digital license with one or more third digital licenses based on said first digital license, each of said third digital licenses including a second third expiration date different from said first expiration date.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising revoking said second digital license.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising re-assigning said second digital license to a third of said plurality of devices after said revocation of said second digital license.

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12. (Currently Amended) A method of roaming a digital license onto a plurality of devices, said roamed digital license enabling the use of a content item on a plurality of devices, comprising:

receiving a first digital license cryptographically bound to a first device, said first digital license having a first set of terms;

creating a second digital license cryptographically bound to said first device, said second digital license having a second set of terms different from said first set of terms, wherein said second digital license is set to expire prior to said first digital license on a second expiration date, and wherein failure of said first device to contact a license synchronization server prior to said second expiration date results in removal of said first device from a registration store on said license synchronization server; and said second digital license is extendable by connecting to a license synchronization server; and

transmitting said second license to said first device.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13/12, wherein said second expiration date comprises a date which is a specified offset from a date on which said act of creating said second digital license occurs.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the act of periodically replacing said second license on said first device.

16. (Original) A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling the use of a first digital license on a plurality of devices, said first digital license permitting the use of a content item and being bound to a first of said plurality of devices by a first key pair associated with said first device, said method comprising:

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sending, to a license synchronization server, a second key pair associated with a second of said plurality of devices, said second key pair being different from said first key pair; and

receiving, from said license synchronization server, a second digital license bound to said second device by said second key pair, said second digital license being based on said first digital license, wherein said second digital license is set to expire before said first digital license, ~~and wherein said second digital license is extendable by connecting to the license synchronization server. and wherein failure of said second device to contact a license synchronization server prior to said second expiration date results in removal of said second device from a registration store on said license synchronization server.~~

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said second expiration date comprises a specified offset from a date on which said act of receiving said second digital license occurs.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said second digital license has a set of license terms ~~and a first expiration date~~, and wherein said method further comprises periodically receiving a replacement of said second digital license, wherein each of the periodic replacements has said set of license terms and a second expiration date different from said first expiration date.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said second digital license is revocable.

23 (Original) A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 17.

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24. (Currently Amended) A system for roaming a digital license to a plurality of computing devices comprising:

a receiving module which receives over a computer network:

from a first of said plurality of computing devices, a first digital license which permits the use of a content item and is bound to said first of said plurality of computing devices by a first key pair associated with said first of said plurality of computing devices; and

a second key pair associated with a second of said plurality of computing devices different from said first of said plurality of computing devices, said second key pair being different from said first key pair;

a license-rewriting module which uses said second key pair to create a second digital license based on said first digital license, said second digital license being bound to said second device, said second digital license expiring before said first digital license, wherein said second digital license is extendable by connecting to a license synchronization server; wherein failure of said second device to contact a license synchronization server prior to said second expiration date results in removal of said second device from a registration store on said license synchronization server; and

a transmitting module for transmitting said second license to said second device.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a transmitting module which periodically transmits a refreshed second license to said second device.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a module which limits the number of said plurality of devices.

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